

Qualities of a Disciple  
Mary Magdalene  
John 20:1-18

- **A disciple persistently follows Jesus.**
  - Discuss how total surrender to Jesus Christ is complete freedom:
    - Freedom to be who you really are.
    - Freedom to live with purpose.
    - Freedom to be content in both the good and hard times.
  - Discuss how controlling your own life (even as a believer) can lead to bondage.
  - Discuss what it takes to live a surrendered life.
  - Persistently following Jesus is impossible without consistency.
    - Just like Mary returned to the place where she last saw Jesus, what does returning look like for us today? Showing up? Repenting?
    - Also, Mary prioritized Jesus by showing up early. Discuss what prioritizing Jesus looks like in your life.
- **A disciple quickly recognizes Jesus' voice.**
  - Mary lingered at the tomb until she encountered Jesus (Peter and John left).
    - Discuss what it looks like to live a life that lingers until you encounter Jesus.
    - How do you do that in our busy culture?
  - As soon as Jesus was ready to reveal Himself, all He had to say was, "Mary!" and Mary immediately recognized Him calling her name.
    - Jesus is always calling us by name. Describe a time when Jesus called you, and you immediately recognized and responded to Him.
    - Can you describe a time when you ignored Him? What were the results?
- **A disciple eagerly obeys Jesus.**
  - Mary was moving into a new relationship with Jesus. He would no longer be there physically, but live in her permanently (through the Holy Spirit living in her)!
    - Discuss how the resurrection of Jesus makes this possible.
    - What is the advantage of this new relationship (which we have as well!)?
    - What are the implications of being a sister/ brother in Jesus's family?
    - How should your position in Jesus' family change the way you think and the way you live?
  - Mary was the first person to be commissioned to "go" and to "tell" about this new relationship.
    - We are also called to the same mission as Mary (cf., Matthew 28:18-20).
      - Does your life look like you are on mission? How?
      - How do we bring our lives into alignment with this mission?